



the Humford Press,
BINDERS,
CONCORD, N. H.

REPORT

OF THE

SELECTMEN OF AMHERST,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 4, 1852.

Town of AMHERST in Account with the Selectmen, 1851-52.

CR.—By Balance in the Treasury	-	-	-	\$304 74
" amount of Taxes assessed	-	-	-	4393 92
" Tax on Railroad Shares	-	-	-	368 28
" Literary Fund	-	-	-	63 55
" Cash received on Notes	-	-	-	167 46
" " " for Stock, Produce, &c. sold from Pauper Farm	-	-	-	475 74
" " " from Menegarie for license to exhibit	-	-	-	30 00
" " " as Bounty on Crows	-	-	-	13 10
				<hr/> \$5816 79

Town of AMHERST in Account with the Selectmen, 1851-52.

DR.—To Cash paid out as follows—State Tax	-	\$352 80
" " " County Tax	-	835 58
" " " Nonresident Highway receipts	-	32 38—1220 76
" " " for Bounty on Crows	-	13 10

FOR SUPPORT OF SCHOOLS—District No. 1, I. McKean \$257 98—
 No. 2, R. Boutwell 250 42—No. 3, S. Carter, Jr. 104 93—No. 4, J. H.
 McConihe 77 54—No. 5, F. Wright 87 43—No. 6, I. P. Weston 74 90.
 No. 7, L. Prince 126 88—No. 8, W. A. Mack 77 15—No. 9 C. Melen-
 dy 81 24—No. 10, B. Melendy 86 97—No. 11, B. Kidder 12 59—No.
 12, L. Kendall 14 78—No. 13, D. Fisk, 2d 23 95—Union Dist. 18 45.
 J. Thissell 1 69—Total - - - 1296 90

EXPENSE OF LAND DAMAGES.—Paid B. B. Whiting \$60 00; A.
 Stevens 50 00; D. S. Prince 13 00; B. Prince 10 00; Spaulding
 Parkhurst 6 00; S. Partridge 4 00; J. Knight 2 00; T. Wilkins \$40.
 J. Crosby 15 00; Chase & Dickey 10; G. Hanscomb 8 00; P. Whit-
 ney 5 00; P. Clark 4 00; L. Towne 2 00; J. Fuller 1 00—total - 230 00

EXPENSES OF BUILDING NEW ROADS.—Paid J. Mace \$156 48.
 J. F. Skinner 122 38; D. S. Prince 87 12; L. Cummings 84 62;—
 W. A. Flint 36 14; E. D. Clark 15 00; H. N. Sargent 195 56—total 707 30

REPAIRS OF HIGHWAYS.—Paid R. Howard \$11 50; P. Shepard-
 4 05; J. Lovejoy 15 69; D. S. Prince 3 00; J. Mace 6 56; H. Phelps
 12 71; J. M. Parker 5 30; M. Fletcher, gravel and planking bridge
 4 57; John Lovejoy 6 12; D. Stewart 4 50; A. Jaquith jr. 4 50; I. P.
 Weston 4 00; F. E. Pearson 5 73; sundry bills 10 68; E. Hardy 1 26
 C. Converse, labor and plank 4 56; L. Towne, plank 23 17; B. P.
 David, plank 16 00; A. Jones, plank 2 82; George Walker, irons for
 bridge 1 75; J. N. Lovejoy, work on bridge 2 00—total - 150 47

\$3618 53

Amount brought up	\$3618 53
EXPENSES OF BREAKING ROADS —Paid C Melendy 1850-1, \$9 10	
J. H. McConihe 15 41 ; O. Carter 17 00 ; L. J. Secombe 12 25 ; A. W. Brown 5 29 ; R. Howard 5 00 ; F. E. W. Peacock 8 25 ; E. D. Clark 1850-1, 5 00 ; N. Low 4 90 ; E. Pearsons 4 47 ; C. Converse 3 90 ; J. Mace 3 84 ; A. Noyes 3 75 ; J. B. Pierce 2 00 ; H. D. Stearns 1 50 · A. A. Woodward 1 00 ; S. Austin 90 cts ; H. Phelps 7 70—total	111 26
INTEREST ON NOTES —Paid D. F. Stevens \$33 56—E. W. Stearns 22 80 ; M. Henchman 12 00—total	68 36
EXPENSES OF PAUPERS OUT OF TOWN —Paid for support of S. Danforth \$26 ; Town of Nashua for Beverly family 48 40 ; Boscawen for coffin for T. Brown 4 00—total	78 40
Paid N. H. Asylum for Insane for Sally Kendall \$75 19 ; L. McConihe for sickness and funeral charges of Mrs. Cash 33 50 ; Mrs. Hamblett for Mrs. Dunklee 6 00 · Overseers' time and expenses in settling pauper bills out of town 12 00—total	129 69
MISCELLANEOUS TOWN EXPENSES —Paid G. W. Moor for Teachers' Institute 29 40 ; A. Lawrence for Office rent 15 00 ; L. Bissell, painting guide boards, 7 00 ; C. C. Danforth, repairing town clock & mending grave yard fence, 6 25 ; J. Knight for guide boards 5 10 ; J. Mace and D. P. Needham for surveying 5 25 ; Town of Mt. Vernon for stone Monument 1 50 ; C. Caldwell for cleaning town house 3 00 P. Dodge for advice and services 3 00 ; James Dana for addition to Burying ground 107 45 ; D. Hartshorn for time and expenses to purchase Burying ground 7 00 ; W. Wetherbee for recording deed 38c ; Stationery 5 64 ; sundry small bills 3 03 ; E. D. Boylston for Printing Reports and Advertising 13 75 ; Abatement of Taxes to D. Fletcher Collector for 1850, 5 67 ; do. to Wm. J. Weston, collector for 1851, 14 35 ; do. to individuals 16 07—total	248 24
SERVICES OF TOWN OFFICERS —D. Fletcher, as Selectman \$64, as Treasurer 12 00 ; Wm. J. Weston, as Selectman, 66 13 ; J. Hartshorn as Selectman, 36 65 ; A. Hardy, as Town Clerk, 22 00 ; C. B. Tuttle as Town Clerk, 10 00 ; J. G. Davis and D. Burroughs, as Superintending School Committee, \$38 ; W. J. Weston, collector, \$48—total	296 78
	<hr/> \$4551 26
ACCOUNT OF EXPENSES AT THE PAUPER FARM, FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 4, 1852 —Paid sundry Store bills 138 69 ; Sawing Lumber and labor on Shed 182 84 ; Blacksmith's bills 24 96 ; Shoe Bills 10 93 ; extra labor on farm 107 96 ; Stock bo't for farm 304 75 F. P. Fitch for medical attendance 12 00 ; G. W. Moor for do. 5 49 ; C. C. Danforth for coffin and digging grave 5 00 ; J. Follansbee for Meat 17 06 ; H. A. Nichols for Paint and Painting 9 76 ; W. Burns for Threshing 6 00 ; S. Carter, jr. for Grafting 3 75 ; J. Russell for repairing harness 3 04 ; J. Marvel, mason work, 3 00 ; M. Shay, for labor in house, 4 50 ; Hartshorn, Lawrence & Co. for oven mouth &c. 2 06 ; F. Wright for pasturing 7 50 ; J. Lovejoy, stone work, butchering, &c. 18 43 ; C. W. Rhoades for brick 1 20 ; C. Eastman, pump box, 63 ; Insurance bills 7 34 ; paid by Superintendent as per his book 13 50 ; E. M. Holt, as Superintendent 287 00 ; Services of Overseers, D. Fletcher 3 25, Wm. J. Weston 2 50, J. Hartshorn 1 50—total	\$1184 64
	<hr/> \$5735 90

AUDITORS' REPORT.

We have examined the foregoing account and find it properly vouched and correctly cast.

CHAS. B. TUTTLE, }
 PERLEY DODGE, } AUDITORS.

 RECAPITULATION.

Whole amount of Cr.	-	-	-	\$5816 79
" " " Dr.	-	-	-	5735 90
Balance in favor of the Town	-	-	-	<hr/> \$80 89

STOCK, PROVISIONS, &c. AT PAUPER FARM, MARCH 4, 1852.—One Horse \$65; 4 Oxen 190 00; 9 Cows 212 00; 3 Heifers 2 years old 52 00; 1 Yearling 8 00; 15 Sheep 38 00; 4 Shoats 42 00; 35 Hens 11 67; 21 tons English Hay 225 00; Meadow Hay and Stalks 62 00; 184 bushels Corn 152 72; 58 bushels Rye 48 14; 33 bushels Oats 14 20; 120 bushels Potatoes 45 00; 60 bushels Turnips 10 00; Peas and Beans 6 50; 700 lbs. Salt Pork 70 00; 440 do. Beef 26 40; 400 do. Ham 40 00; 100 do. Lard 10 00; 100 do. Cheese 7 00; 85 do. Butter 15 30; Tallow and Candles 10 00; half bbl. Flour 3 00; 5 bbls. Soap 20 00; Wool 17 10; 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ yards Dressed Cloth 9 75; 19 yards Frocking 11 28; Yarn 15 00.

REMARKS. The amount of Notes against the Town, after deducting Notes and Accounts due and the balance in the Treasury, is \$835 11—showing by Reports an increase of debt of \$313 53 above last year, which may be accounted for by the purchase of land for an addition to Burying Ground, and building a Shed and shingling of House at Pauper Farm, which expenses were not provided for in raising money at the annual meeting. There has also been the loss of a valuable Ox at the Farm, which has occasioned the purchase of another pair of Oxen.

The number of Paupers now on Farm is 11. Average number the past year, 12. One has died the past year.

Respectfully submitted—

DANIEL FLETCHER, }
 WILLIAM J. WESTON, } SELECTMEN
 JOTHAM HARTSHORN, } OF
 AMHERST.

Amherst School Report,

Presented at the Annual Meeting, March 9, 1857.

In the discharge of their duties, the Committee have endeavored to maintain a careful supervision of all the Public Schools in town. For this purpose, they have so divided the labor that every school should be visited twice in each term. Between thirty and forty half days have been occupied in visiting schools, in addition to the time consumed in the examination of teachers, and in preparing the annual reports.

In the following account of the numbers in attendance, the condition and progress of the several schools enumerated below, we have added to the statistics required by law, brief remarks to indicate the particulars in which each school has excelled or fallen below the common standard. We hope this method will be pursued hereafter, so that our citizens may possess, annually, an accurate knowledge of the actual condition of each school in town. By this means they can ascertain what faults have been avoided, and what improvements have been made. According to the best standards of education, a good school has for its objects the *development* of mind and the *formation* of character. The best instruction is that which most uniformly secures these objects. For this reason the Committee have observed the different methods of instruction pursued by the Teachers. They have marked the interest and intelligence manifested by the pupils, and thus sought to ascertain whether the elementary principles of the several studies were actually mastered. Regarding mental discipline as more important than merely verbal knowledge, we have estimated the progress of each school, not by the number of pages which the scholars have gone over; not by the showy display of a favored few who have received special attention to the neglect of the rest; but by careful inquiry into the standing and intelligence of the whole. To secure any valuable progress in the members of a large school, requires great diligence and tact on the part of teachers. They must maintain strict discipline, and be ingenious in expedients to awaken the interest of the scholars. Oral teaching and illustration must be employed to diversify and enliven the old methods of rote-instruction; and these endeavors be seconded by personal encouragement, and the inculcation of elevated moral sentiments. In proportion as these objects are attained the standard of education is advanced, and the happiness and usefulness of our children promoted.

DISTRICT No. 1. During the past year the two departments of this school have been united and placed under the instruction of Miss Mary J. Parker. The term of study has thus been extended through 9 months. *Summer School*—length 20 weeks; whole number of scholars 58; average attendance 39; wages \$12,00 per month. *Winter School*—length 16 weeks; whole number 62; average 42; wages \$18,00. This is a large and difficult school to manage, most of the scholars are young, but the efforts of Miss Parker have been attended with such success that it now ranks with the best, in respect to the deportment and improvement of the pupils. The instruction in all branches has been faithful. In Mental

Arithmetic, Reading, and Spelling, the classes decidedly excel. This school room should be provided with outline maps, and some better mode of ventilation.

DISTRICT No. 2. *Summer School*, Miss M. Adalene Nevins. Length of school, 12 weeks. Whole number of scholars, 30. Average attendance, 24. Wages \$11 00 per month. The committee were gratified to find a class of young ladies attending this term. The second department was taught by Miss Mary Ann Carter. Length, 12½ weeks. Whole number, 38. Average, 31. Wages \$9 a month. *Winter School*,—First Department—Length, 14 weeks. Whole number, 47. Average, 37. Wages, \$20 00. Second Department—Length, 14 weeks. Whole number, 31. Average, 22. Wages, \$9 00. Both departments have continued under the same efficient teachers, as in summer—very much to the advantage of the whole school. Good order, thorough study and prompt recitations were very generally secured. Aside from the irregularity in attendance and a lack of punctuality on the part of the pupils, we must pronounce this an excellent school.

DISTRICT No. 3. *Summer School*, taught by Miss Maria A. Caldwell. Length, 8 weeks. Whole number, 14. Average, 10. Wages, \$6. The school appeared well at examination. Miss Caldwell will become a good teacher. Had the scholars attended with regularity, her efforts would have been more successful. *Winter School*, taught by Mr. — Hutchinson. Length, 13 weeks. Whole number, 21. Average, 17. Wages \$15 00. His school gave satisfaction to the parents, several of whom were present at the examination. The scholars manifested a lively interest in their studies, and most of the recitations evinced real progress. The elementary instruction in arithmetic and spelling was deficient.

DISTRICT No. 4. *Summer School*, taught by Miss Caroline S. Averill. Length, 8 weeks. Whole number, 20. Average, 17. Wages, \$8 00.—An average school. *Winter School*, commenced by Mr. Page, who relinquished it after two weeks. Miss Abby C. Smith was then employed, who gave general satisfaction. Length, 11 weeks. Whole number 19. Average attendance, 17. Wages \$12 00. Two things are very much needed in this district. 1st. A new school house. 2d. Good *home instruction* to some of the older boys before they enter it.

DISTRICT No. 5. *Summer School*, taught by Miss Lucy A. Russell. Length, 12 weeks. Whole number 26. Average 19½. Wages, \$8 67½. *Winter School*, continued under the care of Miss Russell. Length, 10 weeks. Whole number, 30. Average, 24. Wages, \$11. The examination at the close of each term furnished gratifying evidence of the fidelity of the teacher. Such good order and thorough instruction deserved the countenance and commendation of the district. None of the parents were present at either examination.

DISTRICT No. 6. *Summer School*, taught by Miss Lucy S. Nevins. Length 8 weeks; whole number 22; average 22; wages \$8. *Winter School* taught by Miss D. Jane Stevens. Length 12 weeks; whole number 24; average 20; wages \$12,00. These teachers possess superior qualifications, and their schools were above the average in punctuality and discipline. All the scholars had improved upon the standing of last year. The examinations were well attended. If the friends of education in this District will persevere in their exertions, and complying with the wishes of these teachers, remodel their school-house or build a better, the school may soon stand in the first rank.

DISTRICT No. 7. *Summer School*, taught by Miss Sarah A. Prince. Length 12 weeks ; whole number 26 ; average 19 ; wages \$6,00. Miss Prince commenced school under the disadvantages attending a first effort in her native district. Her exertions were successful, and the school appeared well at the examination. *Winter School*, taught by Mr. Alfred Macy. Length 12 weeks ; whole number 36 ; average 28 ; wages \$22. Mr. Macy proved a very efficient teacher. Discipline excellent, and the instruction thorough. The recitations at the examination were decidedly good. In Reading and Arithmetic the improvement was most gratifying. School house in miserable condition.

DISTRICT No. 8. *Summer School*, taught by Miss Emma N. French. Length 8 weeks ; whole number 28 ; average 22 ; wages \$8,00. Many of the scholars in this school are small. Under the diligent and well directed instruction of Miss French, they improved rapidly. Several of the boys were absent at the close of the term, but not through the fault of the teacher. *Winter School*, taught by Mr. George A. Bowers. Length 8½ weeks ; whole number 31 ; average 27 ; wages \$18,00. Some dissatisfaction was expressed with this teacher near the close of his labors. Only nine of the scholars were present at the examination. Of course the Committee were deprived of the means of judging of the justice of these complaints. Those who were present recited well.

DISTRICT No. 9. *Summer School*, taught by Miss Lucy E. Melendy. Length 8 weeks ; whole number 21 ; average 16 ; wages \$6,00. This was the first effort of Miss M. as a teacher, and the result gave general satisfaction. *Winter School*, taught by Mr. Cyrus A. Whittaker. Length 10 weeks ; whole number 30 ; average 25 ; wages \$20,00. Mr. Whittaker is a laborious teacher, omitting no effort to promote the progress of his pupils. The writing books were remarkably neat, and the penmanship superior. This District needs a better school house.

DISTRICT No. 10. *Summer School*, taught by Miss Betsey J. Bills. Length 10 weeks ; whole number 23 ; average 21 ; wages \$8,00. *Winter School*, taught by Mr. George H. Wood, and Mr. Leonard Brown ; the former was obliged to relinquish the school in consequence of sickness at the end of four weeks. Length 10 weeks ; whole number 26 ; average 16 ; wages \$12,00. No parents were present at either examination. The teachers appear to have been faithful, but the school evidently suffers from the indifference of those residing in the District.

DISTRICT No. 11. Scholars attend the school at South Merrimack.

DISTRICT No. 12. No report made to Committee ; 9 scholars in 1851.

DISTRICT No. 13. Organized last Autumn. This *Winter's School* taught by Miss Mary J. Bachelidor. Length 14 weeks ; whole number 14 ; average 10 ; wages \$8,00. Seven of these scholars belong in town, the others came from Merrimack. The families of this District are entitled to praise for their sacrifices to maintain a good school. The progress of the scholars in all the branches taught, except Reading, was very creditable to themselves and the teacher.

From the preceding survey, it appears that the Summer Schools were, without exception, satisfactory to the several districts. In the judgment of the committee, those in Districts 1, 2, 5, 6, and 8, were superior to the average of the present or any previous year. Of the Winter Schools, those in Districts 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, and 9, are of the first rank. One or two others deserve favorable mention. This improvement we attribute very

much to the exertions of the Prudential Committees in procuring teachers of superior qualifications. In every instance where they have succeeded in procuring teachers of this character, the result has been such as to approve their wisdom. Teachers, who can command a liberal compensation for their services, are usually to be preferred. We hope the town will continue the wise policy of making large appropriations for the support of our Common Schools, and that none but thoroughly trained teachers will be employed. The necessity of selecting a list of School Books is superseded by the recommendations of the Board of Education. Most of the books on their list are of well established excellence, and as no important advantage would be gained by deviating from that selection, we advise an early and general compliance with their recommendations. The amount of instruction which the pupils receive would be increased by the employment of the same books throughout the schools. The younger classes would also be benefited by the more general use of out-line Maps and Charts. We hope every schoolhouse will be supplied before the commencement of the summer schools.

The opinion, expressed last year, in regard to a division of the schools on the Plain, is confirmed by the observation of the present. We ought to have a High School, where the older scholars may pursue the advanced studies, without injury to those below them. The arguments in favor of such an arrangement are well presented in the article of our County Commissioner "on grading schools."

The Committee have been gratified by the increased attendance of the parents and friends of the scholars at the recent examinations. No other influence is so efficient as that of the parents in sustaining the authority of the teachers and awakening the enthusiasm of the scholars. Several of the teachers have been cheered by this encouraging attention, while others have been left to toil on without the presence of a single visitor who has a local interest in their labors. Mark the contrast in the reports of teachers from different districts. How is it that in School No. 6, we have an average attendance in summer, equal to the whole number of scholars, and in winter a proportion second to no other school, while in Number 1, with a teacher of equal excellence, the average attendance is but two thirds of the whole number. We might mention other districts which suffer from this cause in about the same proportion. The law cannot easily remedy this evil, though the efficiency of our whole system of education is seriously impaired by it. If parents would insist on regular and punctual attendance, several of our schools would wear a new aspect. The instruction received would be improved both in quality and amount. The teachers would be encouraged. We should see no truants in our streets; and "haying," "berrying," and the other more pitiful excuses for staying at home, would no more vex the ears of the teachers and committees. Let parents consider the real value of a good education, the limited opportunities for securing it, and we are persuaded that no slight considerations will induce them to keep their children at home for a single day.

In this connection, we wish briefly to allude to the custom of taking children from school, as an expression of disapprobation with the conduct of the teacher or committee. The practice is less frequent than formerly, but we wish it might wholly disappear. We doubt not that just causes of complaint sometimes exist, but the removal of the scholars does not ordinarily tend to correct them. If a teacher is negligent or unreasona-

bly severe, it is right that the parents should seek some remedy for the abuse. We think they should be upheld in every reasonable endeavor to remove the cause of complaint. But let them not do that, which will usually operate to the disadvantage of their own children, without any salutary effect upon the offender. Withdrawing the children from school deprives the teacher of the opportunity of amending his conduct if convinced of his error. And if he is ignorant or wilful, it leaves him to pursue his own course, and still secure full compensation. It must be a rare case when any serious misconduct on the part of a teacher cannot be corrected by an intelligent neighborhood, without the risk of such alternatives as these.

Another subject requiring the attention of our citizens is the *condition of our School Houses*. In no other provision for the cause of education is the town so deficient as in this. We raise large sums of money to defray the expenses of tuition. Several districts make generous contributions to prolong the terms of study, while our school houses are in a great measure neglected. Let a corresponding spirit be manifested in the improvement of school houses, and the state of our schools would soon compare favorably with the best of our neighbors. At present several towns in the county are far in advance of us. Instead of the uncomfortable, unsightly buildings, to which we are accustomed, they have erected large commodious and tasteful structures, that speak to the eye and the heart of the traveller, and furnish a noble testimony to their interest in education. We are familiar with the common objections urged against the cost of such buildings, but if any proposition is susceptible of demonstration it is that true economy requires the outlay. How can we expect a *first rate* school in an old dilapidated building whose shattered walls invite the boys to mischief. Where in winters like the past the scholars must move every few minutes from their seats to the stove, alternating between fire and frost, to keep their teeth from chattering.

We should be glad to see a *model* school house erected in one of our Districts. The increased value of the farms in the neighborhood would more than equal the expense; and then the superiority of a building, which should have ample room for apparatus and recitations, and be well lighted, warmed and ventilated, with its play ground and shade trees, would soon provoke the emulation of other districts. Will not the inhabitants of the West district put up a specimen of tasteful, convenient school architecture?—something that will stir their neighbors of Chestnut Hills and the Lovejoy District to erect new houses of the improved model. We are confident the advantages of this proposition are not overrated. So important is this subject in the estimation of the State Legislature, that they have ordered a copy of *Barnard's School Architecture* to be distributed to every town in the State. This work, which will be found at the office of the Town Clerk, is replete with valuable information. We earnestly hope that no proposals for altering or building school houses in town will be carried into execution without consulting this volume. Every new school house should be a source of permanent pleasure and profit to the neighborhood,—a monument of our taste and public spirit for which posterity will thank us.

J. G. DAVIS, } Superintending
D. BURROUGHS, } School Committee.

Amherst, March 5, 1852.

